ASUKA COMICS DX

裏切りは僕の名前を知っている 6

小田切ほたる

角川書店

9784048543606
ISBN978-4-04-854360-6
C0979 ¥540E
発行 角川書店／定価：本体540円（税別）
1920979005402

「君」以外すべてを失った……」四年前の惨劇から、上級悪魔の〝カデンツァ〟に深い憎しみを抱き、復讐を誓い合う黒刀と千紫郎。そして、通り魔に姉を殺された少女・芽華もまた、復讐に燃えていた。二つの復讐の炎を目のあたりにした夕月は、何を思うのか。また夕月と別行動を取るルカの前に、謎の仮面の男と新たな上級悪魔が現れ……！

The Betrayal Knows My Name

裏切りは
僕の名前を知っている

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IN EVERY
ZWEILTS' NAME
IS A PAST YOU
DO NOT KNOW

6

ODAGIRI
HOTARU

Story 27

The Vengeful Zweilf

裏切りは僕の名前を知っている

ON THAT TRAGIC NIGHT,

THE GATES OF DEATH OPENED.

A ZWEILT BY THE NAME OF KUROTO LIVES HERE.

...RELAY THIS MESSAGE TO HIM.

CADENZA IS HERE FOR HIM.

MASTER GARAN!!

THE ENEMY!!

BOOM

HM?

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

AN OP... OPAST

SUDDENLY ATTACKED...

WE'RE CURRENTLY DEFENDING AGAINST THE ENEMY.

HIS GOAL IS KUROTO!

PLEASE GIVE US ORDERS!!

YOU SAY IT'S AN OPAST!?

HOW CAN THIS BE!?

REIGA SHOULD NOT BE AWAKE YET!

WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS HAPPENING...

BUT THE DEMONIC ENERGY EMITTING FROM HIM IS VERY STRONG. IT IS DEFINITELY AN OPAST!

HE CALLS HIMSELF "CADENZA"...!!

CADENZA!!!

SENSHIROU! HURRY AND TAKE KUROTO INSIDE!

IMMEDIA-TELY!!

!

YES!

KUROTO ...?

THIS WAY, KUROTO!

...WE MUST ALL PROTECT KUROTO

YES!

NO MATTER WHAT WE MUST ENDURE UNTIL MASTER GIOU ARRIVES.

THAT...

DEMON...!

...WHAT IS THIS PLACE!?

SEN-SHIROU!

THIS IS A SAFE HOUSE CREATED FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

DON'T WORRY, IT CAN EASILY PROTECT US FROM OUTSIDE ATTACKS.

WHY DID YOU GUYS SHUT ME IN HERE!?

THE OPAST'S GOAL IS ME

AND IF IT IS CADENZA...!

CADENZA, HE MY PARTNER

HE KILLED OBORO!!

!!

THE ONLY REASON I LIVE

IS TO DESTROY HIM!!

I MUST DEFEAT HIM.

THAT BASTARD!

GET OUT OF MY WAY, SENSHIROU!

I NEED TO GO FIGHT!

NO!!

IT S PRACTICALLY SU C DE

I W LL NOT ALLOW IT!

DO YOU REALLY TH NK WITH THE WAY YOU ARE NOW, NOT BE NG ABLE TO USE 100% OF YOUR ZWE LT POWERS,

THAT YOU CAN DEFEAT H.M!?

IF THAT'S YOUR EXCUSE,

THEN

EVEN SO...

EVEN F THERE W LL BE SACR F CES

AREN'T THEY ALL FIGHTING R GHT NOW!? WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM TO DIE!!

WHAT ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE!?

THE PEOPLE CAUGHT UP N TH S, THE SECURITY OFF CERS

YOU'RE ONE OF THE FEW ZWEILTS WE HAVE!!

I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO DIE, KUROTO.

EVEN F YOU DO NOT AGREE NOW,

YOUR GOAL STARTING NOW S TO L VE

MASTER GARAN

!

REAK

THAT'S R GHT, KUROTO

YOU MUST L VE

MASTER!

KURO -TO!

WAI- WAIT !

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STAY HERE !?

YES

I'LL LEAVE KUROTO N YOUR HANDS, SENSHIROU.

I WILL HAVE TO PERSON- ALLY FINISH THIS BATTLE

IT SEEMS THAT THE DEMON OUTSIDE REALLY IS AT THE LEVEL OF AN OPAST

I MAY BE OLD BUT I CAN BUY SOME TIME FOR US

I MUST PROTECT THIS ROOM.

IF YOU'RE GOING, I WANT TO FIGHT TOO!

KUROTO..! YOU CAN'T!

NO, DON'T GO!

I LOSE WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME

MASTER DON'T GO!!

CLATTER

ONCE AGAIN IN FRONT OF MY EYES

STOP HIM!

GENSHIROU ..!!

GRANDPA
GARAN!!!

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANOTHER DEATH ON MY HANDS...!!

PLEASE DON'T GO...!

GRANDPA, DON'T GO!!

KUROTO

"CALLS ME 'GRANDPA' ONCE,"

"THEN THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL"

"I ALREADY"

" NOW IF ONLY KUROTO,"

"I HAVE BOTH YOU AND KUROTO AS GRANDSONS "

"I TRULY AM BLESSED"

DON'T WORRY

I WON'T DIE

"HAVE NO REGRETS."

AND DIE SO SOON

LEAVE MY TWO ADORABLE GRANDSONS

CREAK

CREAK

CREAK

I WOULDN'T WANT TO

SLAM

WA-...!

SAY IT-THAT YOU WON'T LEAVE ME

HOW DID IT BECOME LIKE THIS ..!!?

GRANDPA!!

CHOKE

CHOKE

CHOKE

GRAND-PA!

WHY?

OLD MAN?

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT

TAP

HMPH

TAP

EVEN WHEN YOU KNOW IT'S FATE

RAISES...

...DEMON.

I WON'T LET YOU PASS.

I FINALLY FOUND SOMEWHERE THAT

I BELONG

DAMN IT...!

WHY!

CADENZA!!

BYE

WITH THE PEOPLE WHO WAIT FOR ME

I WILL NEVER FOR GIVE

NEVER FORGIVE YOU...

EVERYTHING WOULD BE OVER

TAP

KNOWING THAT WHEN THE DOOR OPENED

AFTER THAT BOTH OF US WOULD WITH BATED BREATH

SHI NE

CREAK

CREAK

CREAK

IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

YOU TWO.

SHAA

AAA

SHAA

SHAA

ODAST

THAT

CAD-
ENZA

HAS BEEN
BANISHED
BACK INTO
THE DEMON
WORLD

I'M
SORRY.

UNFORTU-
NATELY,

WE
DID NOT
MAKE IT
IN TIME

DIE HAPPILY FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

IT SEEMS THAT IN THE MIDST OF ALL HUMANITY THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE OUT THERE

WHO LIKE HIM

GRANT -FA

SLICE

EVEN IN HIS LAST MOMENTS HE USED ALL HIS STRENGTH TO PROTECT THESE DOORS

TURNS

THAT'S NOT TRUE!!

STILL.

I CANNOT STAY

IT WOULD BE CADENZA, NOT YOU...!!

YOU'RE NOT A GRIM REAPER.

NEITHER GRANDPA NOR I HAVE EVER THOUGHT OF YOU LIKE THAT!

FROM NOW ON, WHENEVER YOU LOOK AT MY FACE YOU WILL REMEMBER

THE HAPPY TIMES WE HAD WITH MASTER GARAN.

AND THE NIGHTMARE THAT HAPPENED TODAY!

AND EVEN IF GRIM REAPERS EXISTED,

AS LONG AS I'M HERE YOU WILL NEVER FORGET, AND MOVE ON!!

EVEN IF THAT IS TRUE!!

...THAT'S EXACTLY WHY

I NEED YOU!

KUROTO!!

I HAVE NOTHING LEFT NOW!

MY FAMILY

MY HOME

EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO I SHARED MANY MEMORIES WITH.

EVERYTHING'S GONE

ASIDE FROM YOU, EVERYONE IS...!!

IF I LOSE YOU TOO...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME...!!

SENSHIROU

AS LONG AS YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE SADNESS,

PAIN.

OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO I COULD TALK ABOUT GRANDPA WITH.

THERE'S ONLY YOU NOW

AND EVEN THE HATE THAT CLOUDS OUR HEARTS.

BOTH OF US VICTIMS OF THIS INCIDENT.

THERE'S ONLY YOU REMAINING

AND CAN UNDERSTAND

THESE FEELINGS

THE SAME ENEMY.

SHARE MY PAIN?

WILL YOU

DON'T HAVE TO SHOULDER EVERY THING BY MYSELF

NOW I

WE MUST KILL HIM.

THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT TO REQUEST OF YOU... KUROTO.

THE SAME HATE

THE SAME PAIN

YES.

THE TWO OF US TO-GETHER

THE BOTH OF US

MUST DESTROY HIM.

...I

BE YOUR PARTNER.

LET ME

WANT TO BECOME A ZWEILT.

TO PAY BACK THAT DEMON

AN EYE FOR AN EYE,

A LIFE FOR A LIFE.

FINALLY,

KUROTO AND I HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING EACH OTHER UNTIL NOW.

IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE I MADE THAT VOW...

FINALLY.

@ENIX

SEN-SHIROU,

BEING ABLE TO USE

THAT RING'S POWER

YOU REALLY HATE THE DURAS, RIGHT...?

PROVES YOU HAVE, THE APPROVAL OF THE FORMER ZWEILT

NOW, BETWEEN SENSHIROU AND KUROTO,

THEY HAVE BOTH GAINED THE APPROVAL OF THE "FORMER ZWEILTS" AND BECOME INTERTWINED

BUT

THE THING

CEMENTING THEIR BOND

DRIP

DRIP

MEIKA

Let the carved print become afire in rivers of blood....

.....

Give me the strength of souls tortured and wronged.

SUCH TRAGEDY SURROUNDS THE TWO

IS THE SHARP KNIFE KNOWN AS "REVENGE"

Clothe me in the whispered words of revenge

With protection from those who would wrong me...

SHI NE

!

.....

YOU...

WILL YOU HEAR MY REQUEST...?

...I

WANT TO TAKE REVENGE ON SOMEONE.

WAIT

The Betrayal Knows My Name

Hotaru Odajiri

Odajiri wa Boku no Namae o Shitteiru

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World's End Scanlations

Volume 6
Chapter 27

Scanner: Ayu

Translator: Lunastories

Cleaner: Lachuan

Typesetter, proofreader: ******

WE-Scans.livejournal.com

Story 28
The Heart's Wish

裏切りは
僕の名前を知っている

THIS FEELING.

...WHAT IS THIS?

STARTLE

MAYBE I'M THINKING TOO MUCH ?

NO, THIS IS DEFINITELY ...

YOU ARE...

NOT JUST THAT,

HE KEEPS ADVANCING RELENTLESSLY.

THE PEOPLE THAT CAN RIVAL ME ARE FAR AND FEW

HIS MOVES ARE VERY WELL THOUGHT OUT.

HE'S PRETTY GOOD...

AM I... ENJOYING MYSELF?

PLAYING SHOGI WITH THIS GUY...

UNABLE TO PREDICT WHEN AND WHERE HE'LL ADVANCE NEXT,

IT'S EXHILERATING

SINCE I'VE REFERED TO SHOGI WITH THIS FEELING.

IT HAS BEEN A LONG WHILE,

COME TO THINK OF IT

LET'S PLAY AGAIN!

MASTER! ONE MORE ROUND.

EVER SINCE MASTER GARAN PASSED AWAY...

TAP

YOU WILL EASILY LOSE TRACK OF ALL TIME AND AWARENESS.

IF YOU SET YOUR SIGHTS ON THE SHOGI PIECES IN FRONT OF YOU,

KUROTO,

HA HA HA! DO YOU REALLY LOVE SHOGI THAT MUCH?

I LOST.

SIGH

THANK YOU FOR PLAYING WITH ME.

OH! REALLY?

... BUT YOU'RE NOT THAT BAD.

WITH YOUR SKILL LEVEL YOU COULD ENTER THE NATIONAL SHOGI COMPETITION.

I REALLY CAN'T BEAT YOU.

KUROTO, YOU'RE DEFINITELY A STRONG OPPONENT.

...HA HA, WELL OF COURSE YOU CAN'T.

AH... I REALLY TRIED MY BEST

REALLY, IT'S ONLY WHEN I'M PLAYING SHOGI

THAT I CAN PUT DOWN MY BURDENS... IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT .....

.....

I'M REALLY HAPPY.

BUT BEING ABLE TO PLAY AGAINST SOMEONE OF YOUR LEVEL IS LIKE A DREAM.

...FOR ME,

IT'S BEEN A WHILE

SINCE I'VE PLAYED SHOGI UNTIL I LOST TRACK OF TIME.

IN THE PAST, MASTER GARAN AND I

WOULD ALWAYS PLAY UNTIL WE FORGOT OUR SURROUNDINGS ...

IT WOULD ALWAYS IRRITATE SENSHIROU ...

BUT NOW THAT TIME HAS BECOME NOTHING MORE

THAN A DISTANT MEMORY.

...I FEEL THAT HE HOPED YOU WOULD FORGET

HUH?

...MAYBE THAT'S THE REASON THAT MASTER GARAN TAUGHT YOU SHOGI.

THOSE...

HEAVY BURDENS THAT YOU CARRY.

EVEN IF IT'S JUST LOSING YOURSELF IN ONE HOUR OF PLAYING SHOGI... IT'S STILL WORTH IT.

EVEN IF IT'S FOR NO LONGER THAN A MOMENT,

HE WISHED THAT YOU COULD USE THE PRESENT TO HEAL THE PAIN OF THE PAST AND LET GO OF THOSE BURDENS

IN THE END, EVERYONE NEEDS A MOMENT WHERE THEY CAN FORGET EVERYTHING .....

THAT IS WHY,

WHETHER IT BE PAIN, WHETHER IT BE SUFFERING ...

HUMAN LIFE

CANNOT BE TREATED LIKE A GAME WHERE YOU CAN "PAUSE" OR "DELETE"

IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE SUCH A MOMENT,

AND RELAX.

TO STOP FOR A MOMENT

A MO-MENT OF REST

EVEN IF IT'S FOR A SEC-OND

ENTRANCED BY SHOGI, AREN'T YOU?

ARE YOU ENJOYING IT ENOUGH TO LOSE ALL SENSE OF TIME?

THEN WOULDN'T LIVING BE TOO PAINFUL?

THERE-FORE...

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S PLAYING SHOGI

IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT...

...KURO-TO

MAYBE IT WILL GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO SURVIVE ANOTHER DAY.

IF IT'S SHARING LAUGHTER WITH ANOTHER PERSON,

OR EVEN

OR LIVING HAPPILY,

...YOUR HAPPINESS

IS NEVER SOMETHING WRONG...

BE HAPPY, KUROTO.

YOU'RE A CURSE.

HOW WAS A REAPER LIKE YOU BORN IN THIS HOUSEHOLD?

...I DON'T NEED PARENTS.

NOR DO I NEED FAMILY NOR LOVE,

NOR THE JOY OF LIVING,

...FOR I DON'T DESERVE ANY OF IT.

A PERSISTANT, DEEP, NEVER-CHANGING LOVE.

SENSHIROU,

AND

GRANDPA ...

YOU GAVE ME, SOMEONE WHO HAD NO BLOOD RELATION TO YOU,

TWO SUCH PRECIOUS TREASURES ...

NOW, I'M LEFT WITH SOME HOPE

...IF IT'S WITH YOU,

PLAYING ANOTHER ROUND OF SHOGI

WOULDN'T... BE BAD...

HUMANS REALLY ARE VERY AMAZING

ACK

NOW

ALL ALONG THAT WAS WHAT I BELIEVED.

.....BUT

I... ACCEPT

MAYBE...

ONCE A WEEK... NO, ONCE A MONTH WELL PLAY!!

YES!

YES!

MAYBE! I SAID MAYBE!

KUROTO-

AH.. THAT IS...

IT REALLY IS AMAZING,

THAT THE THINGS ONCE CONCEALED FROM ME SEEM SO CLEAR.

REALLY VERY HAPPY ...

HA HA!!

I'M SO HAPPY.

NOW, THEY ARE VISIBLE BEFORE ME.

I NEVER KNEW THE WORLD WAS SUCH A WARM, HAPPY PLACE.

SLAM

SENSHI-ROU,

I'M HUNGRY.

KURO-TO.

AH.

AH! AUNTIE TSUBAKI,

DID WE INTERRUPT SOMETHING?

NO, of COURSE NOT!

AH

he he he

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS

WHY ARE YOU TWO TOGETHER?

AHH

YUKI...

IT'S ANNOYING, STOP!!

HEY, STOP LAUGHING!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN..?

AH, IS THIS SENSHI-ROU'S ART I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT?

I SEE HOW IT IS ...

SO WE WERE, SO WHAT?!

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT IT FROM KUROTO?

WERE YOU AND YUKI PLAYING SHOGI?

NOTHING

HE HE HE

HE DRAWS SO BEAUTIFULLY.

SOMETIMES HE WINS CONTESTS WITH THESE.

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS

.....

USE YOUR BRAIN FOR ONCE!! I'M HUNGRY, NOW HURRY UP AND FEED ME!!

SENSHIROU! IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU LOOK SO HAPPY..

It must have been Yuki

WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS HE IS.

GOOD FOR YOU, KUROTO.

WHY ME!?

You should be saying it to him.=(

IT'S NOT THAT BAD.

IT'S FINE.

IT MUST BE HARD ON YOU, MASTER SENSHIROU.

IS IT MASTER KUROTO AGAIN?

AH!

THE GIOU RESI-DENCE ?!

I HEARD THAT YOU AND KUROTO WILL MOVE TO THE GIOU RESIDENCE TOMORROW.

I WAS GOING TO INQUIRE ON THE PROGRESS OF YOUR PACKING...

ALTHOUGH IT IS A BIT SUDDEN, MASTER TAKASHIRO INSISTED QUITE ADAMANTLY...

IT SEEMS FROM TOMORROW ON WE WILL BE LIVING IN THE GIOU RESIDENCE

IT'S FINE.

...Oh GOSH I I apologize for my outburst

THE KITCHEN ?

OF COURSE, YOU ARE FREE TO USE IT.

THAT ONCE YOU REACH THE AGE WHERE YOU START TRAINING TOGETHER, YOU NEED TO CARRY ON THE TRADITION

WHERE YOU PUT THE ZWEILT RING ON YOUR FUTURE PARTNER.

...I PROMISE TO VISIT OFTEN.

NO, I SHOULD SAY WE ARE ALL YOUR FANS---!!

ALL THE WOMEN HERE RESPECT YOU...

I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY AND KINDNESS THAT THEY HAVE SHOWN

AH...! WE FEEL SO HUMBLED.

ACTUALLY, WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WHO ASKED HIM TO BE SO POPULAR WITH THE WOMEN?

HAS SENSHIROU BEEN "ABDUCTED" BY THE SERVANTS AGAIN?

HEY, I CAME HERE FOR THE FOOD. I HEARD SENSHIROU IS COOKING.

...HMMM

I HEARD THAT THE ZWEILT PARTNERS HAVE THIS RITUAL;

THEN EVEN AFTER PUTTING THE RING ON FOR THEM, THEY CAN TAKE IT OFF IF THEY WANT.

AND, IF YOUR PARTNER DOES NOT FEEL CLOSE ENOUGH TO YOU

SO, THAT MEANS THAT YOU TWO HAVE ALSO GONE THROUGH THE TRADITION

WHERE YOU PUT RINGS ON EACH OTHER LIKE AT A WEDDING.

HOW WAS IT? HOW DID IT FEEL?

...IT'S TRUE.

WHY DO YOU ASK?

...YOU

THE WEDDING WAS ENTIRELY ARRANGED BY OUR PARENTS----

NO WAY!

WH-WHY?! WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT!

THE CANCEL-LATION OF YOUR WEDDING WITH SENSHIROU?

ARE YOU STILL DEPRESSED ABOUT

...!

...BUT, EVEN SO,

IT'S SUCH A SHAME... THAT BRAT COOKS SO WELL...

I'm cooking challenged

...OH?

YOU WANT TO BE A ZWEILT ...?!

...YES.

THAT IS WHY I WILL NOT

BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU---

...TSUBAKI

FROM THIS DAY FOR-WARD

MY ONLY PURPOSE WILL BE TO MAKE SURE THAT KUROTO SURVIVES

...IF I DO NOT KEEP THIS KIND OF MINDSET

I WILL BE UNABLE TO BECOME A ZWEILT...AND KUROTO WILL DEFINITELY REFUSE TO BE MY PARTNER...

I WANT TO BE KUROTO'S PARTNER

I ALREADY PASSED THE PRELIMINARY TEST; NOW ALL I NEED TO DO IS TRAIN AND PRACTICE.

EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL SUCCEED ...

...NO, I MUST SUCCEED.

LET'S... CANCEL OUR ENGAGEMENT.

...IT'S TRUE THAT I REALLY WANTED TO STOP HIM

BUT I COULDN'T SAY IT.

I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO OPPOSE HIM WHEN HE HAD SUCH A DETERMINED GAZE...

I'M SORRY,

TSUBAKI.

THE ONLY THING I CAN DO

WE CAN FINALLY HAVE OUR REVENGE.

GRANDPA

TSUBAKI

FOR SUCH A GENTLE PERSON

TO GO THROUGH SUCH A DRASTIC CHANGE

"THAT FATE-FUL DAY"

IS GIVE ALL OF MY SUPPORT TO THEM.

THE TWO WHO EXHIBITED SUCH CO-DEPENDENCY

AND WHO FOUGHT TO STAY ON THEIR FEET.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

I FEEL BAD USING TOO MANY OF YOUR INGREDIENTS.

HOW ABOUT WHEAT NOODLES AND SOME VEGETABLES?

Let's aim for something simple

CHOP CHOP

THERE'S STILL SOME LETTUCE AND MUSH-ROOMS.

AH, AND THERE'S ALSO TEMPURA.

← Kuroto likes it

...AGH

WHY DID YOU APOLOGIZE !!?

You make it seem like I lost to you!!

Just so you know, engagement cancellations are not that uncommon!!

OH?

AND I EVEN FORCED MYSELF TO APOLOGIZE,

WHAT A TROUBLE SOME WOMAN.

ADD THAT ON TO THE FACT THAT I WAS IN CHARGE OF COOKING FOR MY GRANDPA'S DOJO, I JUST KIND OF....

OH... NO,

IT'S JUST THAT MY PARENTS DIED YOUNG.

THA-THAT CUTTING TECHNIQUE IS AMAZING...!

I originally wanted to help you...

DO YOU LIKE COOKING?

A-AH---

BUT YOU STILL PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT TOWARDS KUROTO'S MEALS.

WELL, FOR EXAMPLE THE SIDE DISHES ARE SOMETHING KUROTO'S REALLY PICKY ABOUT.

Touched

SO I'VE ALWAYS BEEN REALLY LONELY

I WONDER HOW LUNCH COOKED BY A MOM WOULD TASTE LIKE...

Motherly... I'm obviously a man but... I guess I'm really weird...

People often say it seems as if I'm really adept at housework...

I didn't mean to offend you.

Oops! I'm sorry,

...SEN SHIROU

YOU GIVE OFF A MOTHERLY FEELING.

I WAS RAISED IN AN ORPHANAGE.

... I JUST MEANT THAT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE REALLY GENTLE...

I can make lunch for you

...If-

If you don't mind,

Now that it's come to this, let me say this straight up

|---

Ah, No need to feel embar-rassed!

What do you want for side dishes?

Ummmm about that...

I know I'm not a mom but I'm sure that I can make a lunch filled with love for you!

No, I must! I must cook for you!

....Huh?

I'M ESPECIALLY WEAK AGAINST PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

Huh?

P-people like me...?

THAT'S RIGHT!

SOMEHOW, I SENSE A GREAT LONE-LINESS IN HIM.

SO FRAIL

AND LIVING SO BRAVELY .....

KUROTO IS ALSO LIKE YOU...

AH! BUT, I'M NOT TRYING TO PITY YOU.

THIS IS JUST AN INTEREST OF MINE.

An interest...?

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY... IT'S MY OWN CHOICE TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU GUYS...

AN URGE

...SO

GRABS!

THAT'S WHY

I'LL BE UPFRONT WITH YOU

LE-LET ME...

Let me take care of you!

BAT

I can wash your clothes, I can sleep with you...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, SENSHIROU---!

I-IT SEEMS LIKE

HE ADAMANTLY TAKES CARE OF KUROTO

BECAUSE HE REALLY LIKES HIM... HUH...?

SERVANT

LOVEY-DOVEY

That's about right...

SERIOUSLY THOUGH

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE DENSE OR JUST AN IDIOT.

HM

I...I'M HONORED.

SENSHIROU JUST HAS A UNIQUE WAY OF SHOWING HIS LOVE.

SO SORRY, YUKI. YOU MUST HAVE BEEN VERY STARTLED.

AFFECTION?

WHAT AFFECTION?

HM-FOR EXAMPLE

Here, say "Ah"

WHEN I FEED YOU FOOD

Things like that

I JUST WANTED TO TAKE THE AFFECTION I GIVE TO YOU

AND SHARE SOME OF IT WITH YUKI.

AHA HA HA

So rude

SMACK

DON'T YOU DARE SCREW WITH ME——!

SO THIS IS HOW KUROTO ACTS

IN FRONT OF SENSHIROU

THEY HAVE SUCH A GOOD RELATION -SHIP

BUT, BEFORE THEY LEARNED TO SMILE TOGETHER LIKE THIS---

THEY HAD TO GO THROUGH AN UNTHINKABLE AMOUNT OF HARDSHIP

TOGETHER

...THIS IS SOMETHING IRREPLACEABLY PRECIOUS

THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE BY YOUR SIDE NO MATTER WHAT

THEY NEVER LEAVE THEIR PARTNERS ALONE IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS. THEY ARE ALWAYS THERE FOR EACH OTHER. NO MATTER WHAT.

SHUSEI

HOTSUMA HAS

TOKO HAS

TSUKUMO

AH

I WAS WONDERING WHY IT SMELLED SO GOOD

Why wasn't I invited~~~~!

TACHI-BANA

I want to eat the soba noodles Sen-chan made~

HOW DID YOU KNOW SENSHIROU MADE IT?

BLUNT

OH, BECAUSE IT'S OBVIOUSLY NOT ANY OF YOU GUYS.

WOW, THAT WAS RUDE ...

IF I HAD SOME-ONE LIKE THAT.....

THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A ZWEILT

IT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE WITH THEIR TRUE PARTNERS

NO MATTER THE DIFFICULTY, THEY CAN OVERCOME IT...

IN TIMES OF NEED, THEY HAVE EACH OTHER... IF I HAD SOMEONE LIKE THAT...

WHERE IS TAKA SHIRO -SAN?

HM? HE'S WORKING RIGHT NOW

SO HE'S NOT HERE AT THE GIOU MAIN HOUSE

EXCUSE ME

TACHIBANA -SAN.

I'LL MAKE TACHIBANA A PORTION

YAAY ♥ Sen-chan is so nice

DON'T SPOIL HIM, SENSHIROU

.....

IS IT OKAY IF I STEP OUT FOR A BIT?

.....

THEN

HUH!?

SIGH

WHY?

I'M STILL A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT LUKA...

I'LL GO FIND HIM

YUKI!

.....

THAT'S WHY I

I KNOW THAT LUKA CAN'T COME INTO THE GIOU HOUSE

Eh?!
Wait wait wait wait
You can't just leave alone..!
I'LL GO WITH HIM
SEN-SHIROU-SAN
IF SOMEONE'S WITH HIM THEN IT'S OKAY RIGHT?
SIGH
I WANT TO GO TO HIM...!
...AH,
I WANT TO SEE LUKA...

YOU'RE... STILL ALIVE ...?

YOU...!

LUKA COULD COME INTO THE GIOU HOUSE

...IF IT WASN'T BECAUSE THEY WERE AGAINST IT

LET'S GO

KUROTO ...

...YES!

TAP

SHAAA

WAIT!

FSHHH!

HA

HA

YOU ARE...?

...LONG TIME NO SEE

"ELEGY"...

THAT'S RIGHT.

I'M GLAD YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME ♥

"ZESS"

!

ODAST——...

Story 28

The Betrayal Knows My Name

Hotaru Odajiri

Odajiri wa Boku no Namae o Shitteiru

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World's End Scanlations

Volume 6
Chapter 28

Scanner: Ayu

Translator: Lunastories

Cleaner: Lachesa

Typesetter: Saal

WE-Scans.livejournal.com

Story 29

A WORLD WITHOUT YOU

SHIIIN (SILENCE)

...HEY.

AREN'T YOU GUYS GOING TO BED?

...WHAT ABOUT YOU AND TSUKUMO?

I AIN'T SLEEPY.

BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOIN' ANYTHIN' EITHER...

...JUST BECAUSE YUKI ISN'T HERE...

...LIKE THE LIGHTS...

...HAVE GONE OUT ALL OVER THE HOUSE...

...IT KIND OF FEELS...

...YOU KNOW TAKASHIRO-SAMA'S ORDERS ARE ABSOLUTE.

TOO-KO...

I KNOW, BUT I

I WISH I'D GONE WITH YUKI-CHAN AFTER ALL.

...TAKA-SHIRO-SAMA WASN'T DONE TALKING TO YUKI YET.

WHEN I GOT TACHIBANA-SAN ON THE PHONE...

I DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH...

HEY... SO TAKASHIRO TOLD HIM HE'S NOT HIS REAL BROTHER, RIGHT?

HOW'D YUKI TAKE IT?

JINAAA (TEARY)

YUKI-CHAN, YUKI-CHAN...

...CAN YOU FORGIVE US EVEN IF WE APOLOGIZE?

THAT'S THE SAME THING.

WE JUST DIDN'T SAY NOTH-IN'...

I-IT'S NOT LIKE WE WERE LYIN' TO HIM!

I MEAN, THE WAY THINGS WENT, WE WERE DECEIVING YUKI TOO.

I'M WOR-RIED...

GA'A (CLASH)

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?

AM I INTRUDING ON A WAKE?

DONNOR (GLOOM)

WE LIED TO YUKI

WE LIED

BWAAH!

TSUKU-MOOOOO!

DON'T CRY, TOOKO-CHAN.

WE'LL APOLOGIZE TO HIM TO-GETHER.

A SENSE OF LOYALTY?

YOU'VE SPENT TIME OVERSEAS AND HAVEN'T BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE GIOU HOUSE...

YES...

...SO YOU MAY NOT FEEL IT AS KEENLY...

THEY ALL HAVE... A SENSE OF LOYALTY TOWARD YUKI.

COME TO THINK OF IT, TAKASHIRO SAID...

HMM.

—WHEN THEY LOSE "YUKI"...

...THE ZWEILT WILL TAKE PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE.

...IT WAS MORE LIKE A MASTER AND RETAINER RELATIONSHIP... I SUPPOSE.

LONG AGO...

...BUT THEY DO. THE GIOU DO... EVEN NOW.

IT DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO BE TAUGHT. THEY LIVE AND BREATHE IT.

IT'S ENGRAVED DEEP INTO THEIR VERY CELLS.

IT RUNS IN THEIR BLOOD...

PAR-TICULARLY FOR THE ZWEILT...

AND SO WHEN THEY GET NOTHING OF THAT SORT, STRESS BEGINS TO BUILD UP INSIDE OF THEM.

...TO RECEIVE HIS LOVE AND TAKE HIS ORDERS— THAT IS THEIR ULTIMATE HAPPINESS.

TO BE BESIDE YUKI...

...BUT THE AXIS ON WHICH THEIR WORLD REVOLVES IS YUKI, THEIR MASTER.

AT THE MOMENT, THEY AREN'T QUITE CONSCIOUS OF IT...

HA-HA. THAT'S EXACTLY IT.

ALL HE CAN DO TO SHOW IT IS LOOK IRRI-TATED...

THE REASON HE ALWAYS LOOKS SOMEHOW FRUSTRATED... IS THAT IT?

YES...

LOOKING AT HOTSUMA, FOR INSTANCE, ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

...THEY ALL...

...LIKE TO BE DEPRIVED OF YUKI...

—NONE OF THEM...

HMMM.

...NOW IT BE-COMES CLEAR.

...LONG TO BE...

...IN HIS ARMS—

PARDON ME.

WOULD ANYONE LIKE SOME NICE, WARM TEA?

...BUT STILL... HASN'T IT ONLY BEEN ONE NIGHT THAT YUKI'S BEEN ABSENT?

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF.

IT'S SOMETHING ONLY THOSE COMRADES WHO FOUGHT TOGETHER FOR A THOUSAND YEARS CARRY WITHIN THEM...

"KARMA"... I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT CALL IT.

RIGHT ON, AYA!! NICE MOVE! ♥

IT IS BREWED WITH SOME HERBS THAT I GREW.

IT WILL HELP TO RELAX YOUR MIND.

IT IS TRULY THE LEAST I COULD DO...

NOT AT ALL.

MM, IT'S YUMMY! ♥

THANKS, AYA-CHAN.

LET'S HAVE A TASTE!

IT SMELLS LOVELY.

AYA...

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO QUIETLY CONSIDERATE...

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

JI (STARE)

IS...

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER ...?

OH. YEAH. MIGHTA DONE.

IT WAS JUST SITTIN' IN THERE.

HOTSUMA!

YOU USED THE SHAMPOO THAT I LEFT IN THE BATHROOM, DIDN'T YOU!?

HUNH?

SHAMPOO?

SO (BLUSH)

AH?!

OH, RIGHT. NOW I REMEMBER.

NOW THAT I'VE CALMED DOWN AND ALL...

GURU (DIZZY)

OH! NO!

IT IS A SIMPLE THING... REALLY...

HOW SHOULD I KNOW THAT? IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR LEAVIN' IT THERE.

IT WASN'T JUST SITTING THERE! I FORGOT IT!!

DON'T USE IT WITHOUT ASKING !!

AND WHAT, YOU WEIGHIN' THE AMOUNT OF SHAMPOO IN THE BOTTLE OR SOMETHIN'!?

WHAT A STINGY CHICK!!

WHY, YOU...

HM? LOOKS LIKE MORE STORMY WEATHER ...

EXCUSE ME!?

DON'T TRY TO DRAG SHUUSEI ON TO YER SIDE!

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN WHEN I SAY YOU HAVE NO SENSE OF DECENCY!

SHUUSEI WOULD NEVER DO THAT SORT OF THING!

MUKA (RAGE)
MUKA
MUKA!
HO-HOTSUMA, YOU...
THE STRESS IS JUST BUILD-ING
...IT'S NO USE.
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!
IF YOU WEREN'T A GIRL, I'D BEAT YA BLACK AND BLUE!
WOULD YOU TWO STOP IT!?
IF I DON'T CALM THEM DOWN QUICK, SOMEONE ELSE WILL GET DRAGGED INTO THE FRAY...
OHH, A QUARREL?
I HAVE BROUGHT SOME SNACKS AS WELL!
OH YEAH!?
WHAT, I GOT COOTIES!?
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT THIS!? NOW I CAN'T USE THAT SHAMPOO ANY-MORE!!
YOU USE OTHER PEOPLE'S THINGS AND THEN YOU GET AN ATTITUDE ABOUT IT!!
...IDIOT, IDIOT, IDIOT —!
JUST USE IT!
AWWW!
...THAT YOU ARE ALL GETTING SO UPSET?
OH, DID I JUST SAY THAT? ♫
COULD IT BE BECAUSE YUKI-SAN HAS BEEN WHISKED AWAY BY THE KAMAKURA ZWEILT...
SOME-HOW THE ATMO-SPHERE IS.
HE'S A MORON!!
THIS GUY!!
HUH?
WHA?
PIGU (CRACK)

—THIS IS QUITE A FOREST...

IT'S PITCH DARK..

ARE THESE MOUNTAINS ALL GIOU PROPERTY?

THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S A BARRIER UP TO PREVENT OUTSIDERS FROM COMING IN.

OHH...

I WANTED TO LOOK FOR LUKA, BUT...

...MAYBE THAT ISN'T A GOOD IDEA.....

"I'LL BE CLOSE BY" WAS ALL HE TOLD ME

SO IT'S FINALLY SINKING IN.

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF YOU'D BEEN ALONE?

I... I'M SORRY... FOR DRAGGING YOU ALONG.....

N-NO...

THAT'S NOT HOW I...

REMORSE-FUL

...MEANT IT.....

EH?

DO SOME-THING ABOUT THAT CREEPY STARE!!

SEN-SHI-ROU!

NO, I WAS JUST THINKING HOW NICE IT IS THAT YOU TWO ARE WALKING ALONG SO NICE AND COZY WITH ONE ANOTHER.

YOU'RE BRINGIN' UP THAT FETISH AGAIN!!!?

I JUST WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE TWO OF YOU! ♥

EH?

WELL, I AM NOT TRYING TO MAKE IT SOUND LIKE A FETISH OR A PERSONA.

I AM QUITE SERIOUS!

HIDE IT! LOCK IT AWAY!!

KEEP THAT SERVILE PERSONA ON THE DOWN-LOW!!

..!!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I.....

DAMN, WHY DO I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS

LET'S HURRY UP AND FIND ZESS...ER, LUKA!

AH. ARE YOU TWO NOT COLD?

.....UGH, NEVER MIND...

...DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT...!

—UM, KUROTO-KUN...

...ALONGSIDE LUKA IN YOUR PAST LIVES TOO?

...I'M GUESSING YOU MUST'VE FOUGHT...

...I KNOW.

THOUGH I DIDN'T HEAR IT FROM THE MAN HIMSELF...

...AND TREATED LIKE SLAVES...

SO LUKA...

...THE MEMBERS OF HIS CLAN WERE BRANDED "TRAITORS" AS SOON AS THEY WERE BORN IN INFERNUS...

...WELL, YEAH.

HE ONLY JOINED US IN THE LAST FIGHT BEFORE THIS ONE.

...HE FLED INFERNUS AND CAME HERE.....

...UNABLE TO BEAR THOSE CIRCUM-STANCES ANY LONGER...

—I HEARD THAT...

AND THE WAY LUKA WON'T ENTER THE MAIN HOUSE.

LIKE HOTSUMA-KUN... IT FEELS LIKE...

I THOUGHT IT WAS SORT OF LIKE...HE DEFECTED.

"...WHO WILL NOT TAKE KINDLY TO MY ENTERING THE MAIN RESIDENCE."

"THERE ARE SOME..."

...WHEN I SAW THAT GULF...

...BETWEEN HIM AND THE GIOU...

...HE STILL WANTS TO KEEP HIS DISTANCE FROM LUKA FOR SOME REASON.

...I THINK IT WAS SOMETHING ELSE.

BUT AFTER SEEING AND HEARING SO MUCH...

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN DO EASILY...

...JUST BY DECIDING TO DO IT.

...I STARTED TO WONDER...

...IF IT WAS ACTUALLY MUCH HARDER THAN I'D THOUGHT FOR LUKA TO COME OVER TO OUR SIDE.

NEVER MIND THE DIFFERENCE OF RACE...

...THERE'S NO WAY THEY WOULD'VE WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS...

...SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN THEIR ENEMY, UP TILL THAT MOMENT.

...OF COURSE IT WAS.

YOU KNOW IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT EASY.

TO BE AMONG THE GIOU, PEOPLE WHO HAD ONCE BEEN HIS ENEMY, IT MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIBLY—

TAKASHIRO-SAN AND...

...TOOKO-CHAN AND THE OTHERS ALL TREAT LUKA TOTALLY NORMAL.

I DIDN'T HAVE A REAL SENSE OF IT UNTIL NOW... BUT...

AS FOR WHAT TOOK PLACE ...

...IT'S EASY ENOUGH FOR ME TO TELL YOU WHAT I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES.

BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW HE TRULY FELT.

IF YOU'RE INTER-ESTED...

...YOU OUGHT TO ASK HIM YOUR-SELF.

...LUKA CAME PROPERLY PREPARED FOR THAT OF COURSE, BUT...

NEARLY EVERYONE WAS OPPOSED TO IT.

TAKASHIRO-SAMA FORCED IT THROUGH.

—BUT...

...IF THERE IS...

—...

YOU'RE... RIGHT...

FROM NOW ON...

...THAT DIVIDE BETWEEN LUKA AND THE GIOU—

...I'M GOING TO PROTECT LUKA.

AND IF...

...IF THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT IT THAT HURTS HIM...

LUKA HAS GIVEN ME...

...SO MUCH WARMTH.

WHEN I'M SINKING ALONE INTO A PIT OF DESPAIR...

...THE HANDS THAT NEVER FAIL TO PULL ME OUT BELONG TO HIM—

EH.....?

...HE'S...

...IMPORTANT TO YOU, ISN'T HE?

.....

—SO I...

...WANT TO GIVE HIM SOMETHING IN RETURN.

M-MAYBE THAT'S NOT MY PLACE, BUT.....

I WANT TO PROTECT EVERYONE WHO'S IMPORTANT TO ME.

...YES, HE IS.

LUKA AND THE ZWEILT TOO—

...YOU REALLY...

...DON'T REMEMBER, DO YOU...?

I THINK OF LUKA AS A "COMRADE" TOO.

...RIGHT.

WELL, MAYBE BECAUSE I NEVER DID THINK OF HIM AS AN ENEMY.

EVERYONE ACKNOWL-EDGES HIS STRENGTH IN BATTLE...

HE IS AN ASSET WE NEED.

EH?

DON'T WORRY.

LUKA IS LUKA.

HE'S NOT LIKE OTHER DURAS OR OPASTS.

...THERE ARE THOSE WHO FEEL THAT WAY NOW.

I FEEL... A LITTLE BETTER...

.....

...I SEE...

...HOW-EVER, THE REASON WHY HO-TSUMA...

...NEVER QUITE ACCEPTED LUKA—

IT'S NOT THAT HE WAS OUR ENEMY OR THAT HE'S A DURAS. THOSE THINGS AREN'T THE PROBLEM.

...BECAUSE WE ARE BOTH "ZWEILT," AFTER ALL...

...EH...?

AND I CAN'T SAY...

...THAT I...

...DON'T UNDERSTAND HIS FEELINGS TOO.

.....?

EH!?
IT'S THE "SHIKI" I ATTACHED TO MEIKA-CHAN.

OH...
A BIRD?

BASA (FLAP)

POU (PLOP)

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

I AM GOING TO CHECK IT OUT!

TCH

THAT BRAT...

I AM SEEING THAT MEIKA-CHAN SNUCK OUT OF HER HOUSE—

HUH?

AT THIS HOUR!?

...THIS IS BAD.

OH.....

—

I'LL GO TOO!

—IT REALLY HAS...

...BEEN A LONG TIME.

...ARE YOU HERE ALONE?

WHAT BECAME OF...

...THAT MASKED MAN WHO WAS JUST HERE?

AN ODD ASK.....

FU FU! ♥

I'VE MISSED YOU, ZESS! ♥

FU FU FU! ♥

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD STILL BE ALIVE.

TOO MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN.

—IT MUST BE.

...WAS HE...

...AN ILLUSION YOU CREATED ...?

...FOR A GAME, THIS IS IN POOR TASTE, ELEGY.

AND MANY MORE YET IN INFERNUS—

OH, DEAR.

DON'T MAKE SUCH AN ANGRY FACE! ♥

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

TO GET BACK AT ME?

WHY, IN THE TIME I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU...

...YOU'VE BECOME EEEEVEN MORE HAND-SOME... ♥

IT'S JUST NOT FAIR.

KOTSU (CLICK)

FU FU FU...

OR SHOULD I SAY...

A HINT... YOU SAY...

WHY, I ONLY ...

...THOUGHT TO GIVE YOU...

...A LITTLE "HINT."

KOTSU

...AN IN-VI-TA-TION...

...TO BE MY ALLY! ♥

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN...

...SINCE THE LAST WAR, I WONDER ...?

THOSE SILVER EYES, LIKE JEWELS...

...AND THAT JET-BLACK HAIR...

I DID LOVE THEM SO.

AND YET YOU BETRAYED ME SO SUDDENLY! IT WAS QUITE A SHOCK.

YOU KNOW... *LUKA.*

YOU COULD STILL COME BACK TO OUR SIDE.

WE DID FIND SOMEONE TO "REPLACE" YOU, BUT...

...FOR ME, HE'S JUST NOT ENOUGH.

OHH...

...ARE YOU WORRIED THAT "HE" WILL BE ANGRY WITH YOU?

...IT'S ALL RIGHT.

"HE" MISSES YOU TERRIBLY AS WELL.

IF YOU RETURN NOW, HE'LL FORGIVE YOU! ♥

...'KAY?

I'LL ENTREAT HIM ON YOUR BEHALF TOO—

DOGOU!

ARE YOU HERE!?

IF YOU ARE, COME OUT AND SHOW YOURSELF!!

KYORO (GLANCE)

ZAKU (SASU)

ZAKU

—WELL, WELL.

AREN'T YOU A SPIRITED YOUNG LADY?

...IT'LL BE VERY INCONVE-NIENT FOR ME...

HMPH...

...TO HAVE YOU BARGING IN ON THE OFFICE AGAIN, CALLING ME A SCOUNDREL OR WHAT-HAVE-YOU.

...HOW-EVER...

I REALLY DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO ANSWER EVERY APPOINTMENT REQUEST FROM A CHILD.

...SO YOU FINALLY ANSWERED MY SUM-MONS...

...YOU CORRUPT FREAK!

BUT A MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL, OUT ALONE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT...

...I CAN'T SAY I APPROVE.

DOGOU ...!

...AGAINST A LITTLE GIRL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WOULD SEEM UNBECOMING OF US TO BRING OBSTRUCTION OF BUSINESS CHARGES...

...SO?

EXACTLY WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?

I'M GONNA MAKE YOU PAY!

THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS.

...I WILL AVENGE...

...MY SISTER ...!!

MY INNOCENT SISTER... HE...

I HATE HIM SO MUCH I CAN'T STAND IT!

...THAT CRIMINAL KILLED HER JUST 'COS SHE CAUGHT HIS EYE...!!

IF YOU BLAME ANYONE, IT SHOULD BE THE CRIMINAL WHO MURDERED YOUR SISTER...

I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.

OF COURSE I HATE HER MURDERER THE MOST!!

SISTERLY LOVE IS A BEAUTIFUL THING.

AVENGE HER, EH...

BUT AREN'T YOU TRYING TO GET REVENGE ON THE WRONG PERSON?

EVERYONE LIKED HER...

SHE WAS PRETTY, AND SMART, AND NICE...

MY SISTER... I ADMIRED HER SO MUCH!

BUT I HAVE SO MUCH HOMEWORK!

AHHHH!

IT'S LATE, SO GO WITH YOUR SISTER.

MEIKA, I NEED SOMETHING FROM THE STORE.

AND THEN ...

—THAT DAY—

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

ONEE-CHAN, I...

DO YOUR BEST ON YOUR HOMEWORK, OKAY, MEI-CHAN?

THE CONVE-NIENCE STORE ISN'T THAT FAR.

IT'S FINE, MOM. I'LL GO BY MYSELF.

—BUT THAT WAS THE LAST WE SAW OF HER.

SHE NEVER CAME HOME.

THEY FOUND HER BODY IN A DESERTED CORNER OF THE PARK...

...STABBED REPEATEDLY ALL OVER, WITHOUT MERCY.....

...BUT WHAT HAVE I DONE?

IF IT'S BECAUSE I'M HIS DEFENSE ATTORNEY ...

...AREN'T YOU UNFAIR-LY SHIFTING THE BLAME?

I HATE HIM... BUT HE'S IN CUSTODY NOW, AND I CAN'T GET NEAR HIM.

...I'VE HAD NOTHING BUT REGRETS.

SO...

...YOU'LL HAVE TO DO FOR NOW.

WHY DIDN'T I GO WITH HER?

WHY DID I LET HER GO ALONE?

...I SHOULD'VE BEEN NICER TO HER, MUCH NICER.

EVERY SINGLE DAY...

THAT'S MESSED UP!

IT'S WRONG!!

I'M NOT GONNA LET THAT HAPPEN!!

...HM. "WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN," YOU SAY...

EXACTLY WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT?

PACHIN (SNAP)

THE LAW, THE LAW, THE LAW...

IF YOU CAN WORK AROUND THE LAWS ...

...IF YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH IT...

...THEN YOU GET TO DO ANYTHING YOU WANT!? IS THAT THE KIND OF LOGIC GROWN-UPS USE!?

YOU'RE USING A DIRTY TRICK TO GET HIM ACQUITTED!

OH, DEAR. "DIRTY TRICKS" MAKES ME SOUND SO EVIL...

NOW LISTEN HERE.

...CAN-NOT STAND TRIAL.

A MENTALLY UNSOUND INDIVIDU-AL...

THAT'S WHAT THE LAW SAYS.

I DON'T CARE!!!

YOU'RE JUST A KID.

!!

MMM!

...LOOKS LIKE YOU WON'T BEHAVE YOURSELF...

...UNLESS YOU'RE TAUGHT A LITTLE LESSON.

DOKUN (BADUM)

NOT A SINGLE THING IN THIS WORLD IS GOING TO CHANGE...

...JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE SCREAMING AND SHOUTING.

DOKUN

YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN FOR YOURSELF WHAT A POWERLESS CHILD YOU ARE.

DOKUN

—C'MON. POSSESS ME.

DOKUN

GAH!

WH-
WHAT THE
HELL!?
THAT'S...

(FLASH)

UWAH
...!?

COME
OUT
AND
LET
THESE
GUYS
HAVE
IT!!!

HAAH

HAAH

...

...
IS...

IS
SHE
EVEN
HUMAN
.....!?

BACHI
(CRACKLE)

BACHI

HAAAH

H—

HELP US!

UWAA-AAH!

—...

BA CVWOOSH

WHA...

WHAT.....

.....
YOU...

...ARE UP NEXT.

GO (BASH)

DOSA (FWUMP)

NOOOOOO!

NO!

DIE!!

GOA (VROOOM)

BEEP...

POCCO (KABOOM)

GATA (SHAKE)

...GAH ...!

STAY THERE.

...YOU.

GHUUUU (FSSSSH)

!

—THAT... THAT IS...

...SEN-SHI-ROU...

HAAH

YOU THINK YOU CAN GET IN MY WAY ...?

HAAH

ME-MEIKA-SAN—

SO SHE'S POSSESSED BY A DURAS ...?

NO... NOT QUITE.

IT IS A KIND OF SPELL.

ONE CAN CURSE ONE'S ENEMY TO DEATH BY SUMMONING AN ANIMAL SPIRIT.

CURSE THEM TO DEATH ...!?

RIGHT.

IT LOOKS LIKE A FOX SPIRIT.

THAT IS AN ANIMAL SPIRIT...!

NOT A DURAS.

SO THAT WAS THE EVIL AURA...

...COLLECTING AROUND MEIKA-CHAN—

THE SUMMONER'S SUPPOSED TO MANIPULATE IT...

BUT THAT BRAT... SHE'S LET IT TAKE CONTROL OF HER BODY INSTEAD.

SHE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH SPIRITUAL POWER

HUH!?

THEN IT'S NOT ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM A DURAS—

EXACTLY. WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING...

...AT THE MOMENT, HOWEVER...

...WE DO NOT HAVE ANY SPECIALISTS WHO CAN PERFORM AN EXORCISM.

LIKE AN ONMYOUJI...

WILL OUR POWERS WORK?

WELL...

THEORETICALLY.

...PROBABLY.

'COS IT'S A DEMON-SUBDUING POWER

TH—

THERE ARE SPECIALISTS FOR THAT?

BA (WHOOM)

I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY!!

DA (DASH)

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

UGH...

I TOLD HIM TO STAY PUT! >(

DOGOU-SAN!

GWAAH!

HEY!

YOU LITTLE BRAT!

KU—

KUROTO-KUN, HOW DID YOU GET OVER THERE...!?

THE "FEET OF GOD"—

KUROTO'S SPECIAL ABILITY IS "SPEED."

IF YOU DON'T, I WON'T HESITATE TO BREAK YOUR ARMS.

GIRL (SCHOOLGIRL)

BEHAVE YOURSELF.

!?

RRRGH ....../

MEGYLLVARDA.

SEN-SHI-ROU!

EXORCISE IT WHILE I'VE GOT AHOLD OF HER!

RIGHT.

HE CAN CROSS DISTANCES IN AN INSTANT AND SO ON.

ALSO KNOWN AS "THE SWIFT ONE."

I HAVE NOT TESTED YOU ON SPIRIT BEINGS BEFORE, BUT...

...PLEASE WORK!

NO ...!

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO !?

I DON'T CARE... AS LONG AS I CAN MAKE HIM AND THE MURDERING BASTARD FEEL...

...THE SAME TERROR AND PAIN THAT MY SISTER DID...!!

WE MUST EXORCISE THAT SPIRIT-FOX QUICKLY, OR ELSE —!

IF YOU CURSE SOMEONE, YOU WILL PAY FOR IT YOURSELF TOO!

MEIKA-CHAN!

FINE! I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME!!

STOP IT!

I HAVEN'T TAKEN CARE OF DOGOU YET!!

EVERY SINGLE DAY FOR FORTY-NINE DAYS, I RECITED THE SPELL!

I READ, I LOOKED THINGS UP, AND I FOUND THIS MAGIC...

DAY IN AND DAY OUT... I SEARCHED FOR SOMETHING I COULD DO!

NOW ...!

FINALLY I CAN AVENGE HER, SO DON'T GET IN MY WAY !!!

A MEMBER OF MY FAMILY WAS TAKEN FROM ME! HOW WOULD YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL!!?

HAAH

MY INSIDES ARE BOILING HOT...

...AS IF I SWALLOWED MOLTEN LEAD...

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

—HATE.

I HATE HIM.

...MEIKA-CHAN—

...I HATE...

THE POWER TO FIGHT...!!

...GIVE ME THE POWER TO HAVE MY REVENGE...

PLEASE...

.....

...SENSHIROU-SAN.

KUROTO-KUN—

...
C'MON
...
...LUKA.

WON'T YOU COME BACK TO US...?

PRETTY PLEASE —?

ZAA (FWSSH)

HOW IN THE WORLD...

...CAN YOU POSSIBLY RESPOND TO THAT—

...YOU CAME TO SAY?

...A FOOL!

...YOU REALLY ARE...

IS THAT ALL...

THEY SAY YOU HAD THE HONOR OF BEING BOUND BY HIM!

HAVING A COVENANT WITH HIM, AND ON TOP OF THAT, RECEIVING HIS ***BLOOD MARK***...

WHY EXACTLY WEREN'T YOU SATISFIED!?

YOU BELONG TO HIM, TO THAT NOBLE PERSON-AGE!!

AND YET YOU FELL FOR SOME VAPID EARTH WOMAN?

SUCH A VICIOUS BETRAYAL!!

I HAVE BETRAYED ...

...NO ONE.

BECAUSE I HAD NO INTEN-TION...

...OF SERVING HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

MY PAST...

...MY FUTURE—

EVERY-THING I AM BELONGS TO YUKI.

AND THE ONLY ONE TO WHOM I WILL BE BOUND...

...IS YUKI.

...TCH!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT...

...TAKE UP YOUR WEAPON.

LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

Story 29 · END

Presented By
World's End
Scanlations
Thank you
for
reading
Chapter
29 of
UraBoku!
Credits to
Author:
Odagiri
Hotaru
And:
sammehmac.
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Story 30

A TRAGIC SENTENCE

URABOKU CHARACTERS

POPULARITY POLL RANKINGS②

6TH PLACE

TAKASHIRO GIOU

7TH PLACE

KANATA (REIGA)

8TH PLACE

SODOM

9TH PLACE

KUROTO HOURAI

10TH PLACE

TOOKO MURASAME

11TH PLACE

TACHIBANA GIOU

12TH PLACE

FUYUTOKI KUREHA

13TH PLACE

SENSHIROU FURUORI

14TH PLACE

HOTARU ODAGIRI

15TH PLACE

ISUZU FUJIWARA

16TH PLACE

IBUKI SHIKIBE

16TH PLACE (TIE)

KATSUMI TOOMA

THIS IS THE FINAL TALLY OF THE VOTES FROM URABOKU FC THAT WAS PRINTED UP IN ASUKA. THE TOP FOUR GOT A COLOR SPREAD FOR THE OPENING OF STORY 27! ♪ WHAT DO ALL THE READERS THINK? WE'D ONLY SEEN KUROTO AND SENSHIROU ONCE OR TWICE AT THE TIME OF THE POLL, SO IF WE DID IT NOW THE RESULTS MIGHT BE DIFFERENT. ANYWAY, I'M GLAD TO SEE VOTES FOR SO MANY DIFFERENT CHARACTERS! (ALTHOUGH I'M NOT A CHARACTER...÷LOL÷ BUT THANKS! ♥) TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE POLL — THANK YOU SO MUCH! I'D LIKE TO DO IT AGAIN WHEN ALL THE ZWEILT HAVE APPEARED~! .....BUT STILL, COMPARED TO HOW UNPOPULAR HE WAS WHEN HE FIRST SHOWED UP, HOTTSU REALLY HAS STUCK IT OUT. HE WASN'T VERY WELL LIKED, MAYBE BECAUSE HE WAS SO ANTAGONISTIC TO YUKI. GOOD JOB HAULING YOURSELF UP THERE, HOTTSU! (÷LOL÷)

MY PAST, MY FUTURE—

EVERY-THING I AM BELONGS TO YUKI.

...HMPH .....!

LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT, TAKE UP YOUR WEAPON.

...YOU'RE STILL DEVOTED TO THAT WOMAN?

ZESS— DON'T TELL ME...

VUN (BZZZ)

DOG! DOG! DOG! YOU ARE JUST A DOG!!

BI

BI

BI (CRACK)

IN THE END THAT'S ALL YOU WERE BORN TO BE!!

HOW UN-FOR-TU-NATE !!

BASHO (WHAP)

...AND SHE'S FORGOTTEN ALLLL ABOUT YOU?

TO (THP)

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

ISN'T IT TRUE THAT SHE WAS REBORN...

SHE WAS ONLY USING YOU.

THAT WOMAN NEVER LOVED YOU!

HOW'S THAT FOR A VICIOUS BETRAYAL!?

AH HA HA HA HA HA!

YOU WERE DECEIVED, ZESS!

AND ON TOP OF THAT SHE EVEN SWITCHED SEXES AND BECAME A MAN... .....ISN'T THAT RIGHT NOW?

ETERNITY IS AN ILLUSION. LOVE IS A CHILD'S GAME OF MAKE-BELIEVE.

FORGET ABOUT THAT LITTLE SWEET-TALKING MAGGOT.

YOU MIGHT BE A DOG, BUT YOU STILL HAVE YOUR PRIDE, DON'T YOU?

YOU CAN STILL—

IT IS NO USE.

LUKA!

DON'T FORGET THAT I LOVE YOU...

...COME WHAT MAY.

...EVEN IF I'M REBORN—

"I'M HERE."

"IT'S ALL RIGHT, LUKA.

HM?

WHATEVER CREATURES LIKE YOU MIGHT SAY TO ME...

...I WILL NOT BETRAY YUKI.

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.

I SIMPLY DO AS HE WISHES.

WHAT HE WILL DO WITH THAT IS UP TO HIM.

I BELIEVE I ALREADY SAID THAT EVERY-THING I AM BELONGS TO YUKI.

AAH, HOW COULD THIS BE ...!?

A CREATURE ABOVE AND APART FROM ATTACHMENT AND AFFECTION...

BUT...

...YOU MAKE A SPLENDID GUARD DOG.

.....

BYU (UNSHEATHED)

CHI (GRIP)

IF HE TELLS ME TO STAY BESIDE HIM, I WILL NOT LEAVE HIS SIDE.

IF HE TELLS ME TO DIE, I WILL DIE.

...DON'T MAKE ME SAY IT AGAIN.

...THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT TO HEAR!!!

WAAH

わはな わはな

HANA (TREMBLE)

...HAS LEARNED TO LOVE?

SUCH A TAWDRY ROMANTIC TALE SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO BE...

THERE ARE QUITE A FEW CARELESS INDIVIDUALS AROUND HERE NEEDLESSLY DESTROYING THINGS...

I'LL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH MORE SNIDE REMARKS.

DAMN .....!

WHEN YOU ARE A MAN.

...SO WHY ARE YOU PRETENDING TO BE A WOMAN?

IRRITATING AS ALWAYS.

ISN'T THE DURAS CONCEPT OF GENDER VAGUE TO START WITH...?

TO THINK I LOST TO A HUMAN WOMAN .....!

NO, A MAN NOW —!!!

AND WHILE I HAVE SUCH FEELINGS!!

THIS IS TOO MUCH TO BEAR!!

YOU KNOW THAT PERFECTLY WELL!!

I... I AM A HERMAPHRODITE!!

I'M BOTH A MAN AND A WOMAN!

...I'M NOT INTERESTED IN TAWDRY WOMEN.

TAWDRY...

...IS THAT SO? IT MUST HAVE SLIPPED MY MIND.

AT ANY RATE...

WE COULD HAVE A LOVELYYY NIGHT TOGETH-ER—

—JUST THE TWO OF US!

PERO (LICK)

...WHETHER I'M A TAWDRY WOMAN OR NOT...!

HMPH

...YOU'RE NOT A NICE MAN... I'LL LET YOU SEE FOR YOUR-SELF...

GYAAAAARGH!

BISHI (WHAP)

COME, MY SKULL-DEUS!

DON

NOO!!

HOW DID YOU GET RID OF MY SKULL-CHANS SO EASILY...!?

ぐぁ (RUSH)

I WONDER IF THIS FEMALE BODY POSES A DISADVANTAGE.

TOO FAST...! YOU'RE AS FIERCE AS I THOUGHT! ♥

GOOD WITH MAGIC AND WITH A SWORD. IT'S FRIGHTENING.

ぐぁ (RUSH)

!!

GO (WHSH)

I HAVE TO DRAW HER OUT TO THE MOUNTAINS, WHERE IT IS MORE DESERTED.

WE CAN'T REALLY GO ALL-OUT HERE...

I HAVE TO FINISH THIS AND GET BACK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE GENERAL RANKS HAVE STARTED MOVING SO QUICKLY—

WHY!?

YUKI ...!

WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT GETTING REVENGE!?

WHY IS EVERY-ONE GETTING IN MY WAY ...!?

MY SISTER WAS MUR-DERED!!

SHE WAS ONLY SEVENTEEN, AND HER LIFE IS OVER ...!!

...AND STRANGERS SAY NASTY THINGS TO ME...

...LIKE I JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT IT!!

AND GROWN-UPS...

...GETS A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE ...!

AND ...

...THE ONE WHO KILLED HER...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT!?

IF I DON'T, MY SISTER CAN'T REST IN PEACE!!!

SO THAT'S WHY! I'VE DECIDED...

...I'M GONNA KILL THAT MURDERER AND HIS CROOKED LAWYER MYSELF!!

IN THE END ...

...ALL I'VE LEARNED IS...

...THAT NOBODY CARES ABOUT ANY-BODY ELSE!

KUROTO-KUN—

—SEN-SHIROU-SAN.

.....

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND MEIKA-SAN'S FEELINGS...

...SO MUCH IT HURTS

.....

GIRI (CLENCH)

...SEN-SHI-ROU.

HOW CAN YOU— POSSIBLY ANSWER HER—

SO YOU CAN'T SAY TO HER..

..."GIVE UP ON YOUR REVENGE."

YOU CAN'T TELL HER THAT...

YOU BOTH...

...HAD LOVED ONES KILLED BY THAT OPAST "CADENZA"...

...AND YOU VOWED TO EACH OTHER THAT YOU'D AVENGE THEM.

THAT'S WHY YOU WORKED YOURSELF TO THE BONE TRAINING TO BECOME A "ZWEILT," SENSHIROU-SAN—

SENSHI-ROU!

HAH!

KUROTO.....

I'M GOING TO EXORCISE THE "SPIRIT-FOX" THAT'S POSSESSING YOU.

THIS MIGHT HURT A BIT.

.....

SORRY, MEIKA-CHAN.

LEAVE ME ALONE ...!!!

RELEASE

I SAID DON'T ...

!?

NO... DON'T EXOR-CISE ME!!

I DON'T WANT YOU TO!!

STOP-
PPPPP
!!!

I
RELEASE
THEE.

NOOOOOOO!

DID IT WORK ...?

SU FWSH.

SUU

...MEIKA-CHAN.

PAA (GLOW)

ARE YOU OKAY...?

.....WHY DID YOU...

...EX-ORCISE ME...?

YOU'LL NEVER... UNDER—

MEIKA-CHAN, I...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, SENSHIROU!

HOW IT FEELS TO HAVE SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY MURDERED .....!

I TOLD YOU TO STOP...

...I DO UNDER-STAND.

SO WELL IT HURTS.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

...SOMEONE IN MY FAMILY WAS MURDERED TOO.

—BE-CAUSE...

"WHAT'S SO WRONG ABOUT GETTING REVENGE," YOU SAY?

OF COURSE IT'S WRONG!

WHAT KIND OF A JOKE IS THAT? QUITE AN ELABORATE COMEDY YOU'VE STAGED!

HA HA HA ...!

AH HA HA HA HA HA!

.....

...WHA .....?

...WHY, IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER!

IF EVERYONE WHO LOST SOMEONE CLOSE TO THEM WAS ALLOWED TO GO AND GET REVENGE...

THE REASON HE CHOSE YOUR SISTER...

...WASN'T JUST CHANCE.

THAT DAY, HE SAID, THEIR ***EYES MET.***

OR...

...MAYBE IT WASN'T JUST BAD LUCK?

THE DEFENDANT WAS SAYING THAT SORT OF THING.

...AND ALL THIS...

...OVER JUST ONE DEAD GIRL? SUCH FOOL-ISHNESS.

WHA—

SHE JUST HAD A LITTLE BAD LUCK, THAT'S ALL.

SO BEFORE YOU CRITICIZE ME...

SHUT UP...

...YOU MON-STER.

I'M NOT SURE ONE CAN REALLY SAY...

STOP IT

...THAT YOUR SISTER WAS COMPLETELY BLAMELESS.

AND REALLY, WALKING ALONE AT NIGHT LIKE THAT...

"A GIRL WALKING DOWN THE STREET WAS STARING STRAIGHT AT ME."

—AND SO WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS...

...OPEN YOUR FILTHY MOUTH AGAIN.

DON'T YOU DARE...

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU'RE OUT OF LINE WITH ME!?

TSUKA (STALK)

WHAT ...!?

YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR OWN MOUTH!

...OF SOME SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL VIPs.

I HAPPEN TO HAVE THE BACK-ING...

...."SHE WANTS ME." ...SO HE SAID.

GO
(THWAK)

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO OPEN YOUR MOUTH.

YOU...

...YOU HIT ME!?

I... I'LL SUE!!

ZA (SMASH)

HA!!

I'LL PRESS CHARGES, YOU LOW-LIFE!!

FOR AS-SAULT!

AND SLAN-DER!

DID YOU JUST HIT A LAWYER!?

DO (THUD)

OOGH!

YOU'LL BE HAULED OFF TO PRIS—

...DO NOT GET TO TALK ABOUT THE LAW.

DOKA (WHACK)

GA (GRAB)

THOSE WHO DO NOT EVEN KNOW THE WEIGHT OF A HUMAN LIFE...

I WILL KILL THIS MAN FOR YOU INSTEAD.

GA (WHACK)

DOGA (THUD)

.....
MEIKA-CHAN.

...SE—

SEN-SHIROU! HE'LL DIE IF YOU DON'T STOP!!

SE-SENSHI-ROU...

YOU ARE STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...

YOU MUST NOT DIRTY YOUR HANDS OVER SOMEONE LIKE THIS.

I-IS HE OUT OF HIS MIND!?

HE CAN'T BE SANE ...!!

HE IS A DEMON IN HUMAN SKIN.

...HE WILL JUST BRING SORROW TO MORE AND MORE PEOPLE.

IF I LET HIM LIVE...

DAN OKAMURA

GUT (CRICK)

HACK ...!

SO I WILL KILL HIM.

GUT (SLASH)

LIKE THOSE OF ALL THE KILLERS I'VE SEEN—

HIS... HIS EYES ...!

NO, FAR WORSE ....!!

HE... HE MEANS IT.

SEN-SHI-ROU-SA...

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

TRUST HIM.

Y-YOU'LL GET...THE DEATH PENALTY...

...FOR SURE ...!!

TH-THAT'S A SERIOUS CRIME!!

YOU WANT TO BE A MURDERER TOO...!?

G-GET OFF ME!!

HE'S REALLY GOING TO KILL ME!!

...AND CARRY THE LIFELONG BURDEN OF THAT SIN.

I AM QUITE PREPARED TO KILL YOU...

I DO NOT NEED YOUR CONCERN.

I... I—

STO...

GR GR GRAAGH

GUH..

I'VE DECIDED TO KILL YOU! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT!?

OH.....

"QUITE PREPARED ... ...TO CARRY THE LIFELONG BURDEN"

DON'T...

SENSHIROU, I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE BURDENED BY THE LIKES OF HIM...!!

STOP IIIIIIT —!!!

I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO DIE...!

PLEASE STOP, SENSHIROU ...!!

—MEIKA-CHAN.

FORGIVE ME...

...FOR SCARING YOU...

SEN... SHIROU...

AND YOU JUST WANTED...

...TO MAKE IT ALL STOP BY AVENGING YOUR SISTER.

IT HAS BEEN HARD FOR YOU... LIVING WITH SO MUCH HATE—

I'M... SORRY...

.....

NO...I'M SORRY...

...I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL.....

I WAS GOING ON... ABOUT KILLING SOMEONE WITHOUT EVEN THINKING...

SEEING SOMEONE ACTUALLY ABOUT TO DIE...

...I WAS JUST SO SCARED...

...YOU'VE BEEN HURTING A LOT.

SO DON'T MAKE YOURSELF SUFFER ANY-MORE.

WHAAA

ドオーン

BOOOM
BOOOM

ZUSHAAAA
(SKRSHAA)

ALIEN

(N-NEVA)

NGH
.....

KOFF!

STRONG...

...MERCI-LESS...

...AND BEAUTIFUL.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE ANYONE'S MADE ME BLEED...

BETA (OOZE)

IT WOULD BE YOU, ZESS...

ZARA (SKITCH)

YOU ARE...

...THE LIVING WEAPON.

I DO LOVE THAT SORT OF MAN...

AMONG THE NOBILITY THERE ARE "ZESS" COLLECTORS, YOU KNOW.

OH, BUT IT'S NOT JUST ME.

...WHAT TERRIBLE TASTE.

THIS IS ONE OF MY TRUE JOYS IN LIFE~!

AHH... AND YOU'RE SPATTERED WITH MY BLOOD—! I CAN'T TAKE IT...!

GOING INTO RAPTURES

BORN WITH TREMENDOUS MAGICAL POWER, AND BEAUTY REPUTED TO BE WITHOUT PARALLEL IN INFERNUS...

THOROUGH-BREDS, SO TO SPEAK.

"ZESS," THE SINFUL CLAN— THE RARE BREED OF INFERNUS.

THEY ALWAYS INTERMARRY AMONG THEM-SELVES, SO THEIR BLOOD IS PURE...

THEY ARE CRIMINALS. AND LIVE-STOCK.

—AND YET...

...THEY ARE SHACKLED FROM BIRTH, OPPRESSED...

YOU RUN ON ABOUT THE MOST UNPLEASANT THINGS.

SEKI (KACHIK)

WHY ARE YOU WASTING MY TIME?

—AND IN PARTICULAR, LUKA...

...BEINGS LIKE YOURSELF, CLAD IN SUCH AN UNASSAILABLE AURA...

DOESN'T IT FEEL AMAZING TO VIOLATE THOSE BOUNDARIES?

YOU ZESS ARE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND THE MOST FOUL.

NOBLE AND VULGAR.

...IT'S THAT DICHOTOMY I LIKE SO MUCH.

I'M SIMPLY ENJOYING A NICE CONVERSATION WITH YOU.

THAT'S UNCALLED FOR...

VU (VAO)

OH, DEAR... WHAT A RUTHLESS MAN.

—BUT CAN YOU REALLY DO IT?

VUVU

ARE YOU...

KACHIRI (KASHING)

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN BEING AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PLEASURE.

—SO I'LL PUT AN END TO YOU NOW.

LUKA?
...ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME?

...GOING TO...

!!
ARE YOU.....

—...

...HOW .....?

...YU...

...KI.....?

...I DIDN'T DIE...

...LUKA.....

...BETRAY ME AGAIN ...?

Story 30 END

The Betrayal

Knows My Name

SIDE STORY

A BELOVED MELODY

...HAS COME TO LIVE WITH US AT TWILIGHT HALL.

THIS IS OUR FIRST DAY OFF SINCE YUKI-CHAN...

SUBJ (No subject)

Come to the usual meet-up place quick. It is an emergency.

Luka

WHA...

HM.

WHAT NOW? A TEXT?

RIGHT WHEN I'M SO BUSY

(BIP)

WHEW!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT IT...!

THAT WAS AN ORDEAL

THE LIMITED EDITION CLUTCH AND BRACELET ...!

THAT ONE'S MINE!

QUIT SHOVING!

(COSTLY)

HERE WE GO, ALL RIGHT! ON TO THE NEXT MISSION!!

(SUBLIME)

← ×: THE FIFTH ITEM ON HER LIST

INTENSE STARE.

LU-LUKA —!!?

HE SENT ME A TEXT...

WHAT HAPPENED!?

YOU GOT HERE FAST...

WOW, IMPRES-SIVE.

TSUKUMO!! LU-LUKA SENT A T-T-T-TEXT!!

OHH... WELL...IT'S SORT OF LIKE THAT, BUT...

SHE REALLY CAME RUNNING.

IS IT A TOOL FOR SUMMONING PEOPLE?

THIS THING.

AH.

TOOKO-CHAN.

DODODODODO. (RUN RUN RUN.)

SO IF WE SENT YOU A TEXT UNDER LUKA'S NAME, YOU'D BE SURPRISED AND COME QUICKLY...

...IS WHAT TACHIBANA-SAN THOUGHT.

WHEN YOU GET TOTALLY ABSORBED IN SHOPPING, TOOKO-CHAN, YOU DON'T COME IF I CALL YOU, SO...

I'M SORRY! I WAS JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART!

LINK-UP VIA "EARS OF GOD."

.....WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?

TOOKO-CHAN, TOOKO-CHAN.

HUH? AM I LATE AGAIN?

SORRY

YOU'RE AT FAULT HERE, TOOKO-KUN.

WE WERE ALL SUPPOSED TO FINISH OUR ERRANDS AND MEET UP HERE AT THREE O'CLOCK...

AND THEN GO TO THE SUPER-MARKET TOGETHER.

GRR... YOU TRICKED ME!!

I DEVISED A PLAN!

HA-HA-HA!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

LUKA DID...?

LUKA ACTUALLY DID SEND THAT MESSAGE.

REALLY!?

YEP. HE'S QUITE DEXTEROUS.

WHILE I...

...DON'T EVEN REGISTER IN HIS FIELD OF VISION...

WHEN IT'S YUKI-CHAN'S EYES, HE'LL MEET THEM STRAIGHT ON.

LUKA..... HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT GUARDED LOOK...

GAGUAN (SHAGA)

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE ZWEILT AND LUKA...

...HASN'T BEEN CLOSED AT ALL.

HOTSU-MA!

WHAT WAS THAT!?

CUT IT OUT ALREADY!!

YOU ARE A BRAT.

ZESS...

THAT BRITTLE, COLD AURA—

HMPH...

JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DO YOUR OWN JOB PROPERLY...

...YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE IT OUT ON OTHERS?

YOU SERIOUSLY PISS ME OFF!!

ZESS...!

I WANTED TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT...

KON (KNOCK) コン!

KON コン!

ZESS? ARE YOU IN THERE?

UM... ZESS? ARE YOU OKAY?

GACHA (KACHAK)

ZE...

OH!

I-I'M SORRY!

WERE YOU IN THE SHOWER?

...I WAS DRENCHED IN COFFEE.

EEP...

(CREAK)

IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?

THEN IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

YOU DON'T...

...WHAT?

UH, UM—

I'M SORRY ABOUT HOTSUMA...

OH! WAIT!

I... WANTED TO...

IT'S FINE.

BASH! (VIBE)

...TALK TO YOU MORE .....

(GRAB)

I DON'T REALLY CARE.

BATAN (SLAM)

...DON'T TREAD LIGHTLY...

...INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS.

—IN AN INSTANT...

...MY HEART TURNED TO ICE.

STUPID... WHY DO I HAVE TO...

ZAWA

THIS IS AWFUL.

WH- WHERE'D EVERY-ONE GO!?

DID I LOSE THEM!? DID I ...!?

COS I WAS SPACING OUT!

ZAWA (MURMUR)

THAT VERY THOUGHT WAS...

...PAINFUL AND SAD...

I CAN'T BREAK DOWN THE WALLS BETWEEN US AND LUKA...

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING AT ALL.

HUH ...

(GRAB)

HU

...I'VE BEEN LEFT ALL ALONE IN THE WORLD—

NOW IT'S LIKE...

...AND YET—

IT'S REALLY NOTHING ...

...AND YET...

I FEEL LIKE CRYING.

HEY.

STAY WITH US, WOULD YOU?

LUKA

.....

...THIS DAY IS FULL OF SURPRISES.

WHY IS HE GIVING ME THINGS HE NEVER GAVE ME BEFORE...?

TOOKO-CHAN.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE, YOU CAN JUST GET SWEPT AWAY.

OH... YEAH.

SUJ CREACHO

LET'S GO...

...TOOKO-CHAN.

LUKA'S EYES SAW ME FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE HAND THAT SHOOK ME OFF SO COLDLY THAT TIME...

...IS SLENDER AND KIND...

DON'T GET LOST IN A PLACE LIKE THIS. YOU AREN'T A CHILD.

I-I'M SORRY, OKAY?

I WAS JUST THINKING!!

...IT STARTLED ME.

...OH. THAT'S RIGHT...

IT'S THANKS TO YUKI-CHAN THAT LUKA HAS EASED UP.

GYUUUU (SQUEEEEZE)

HEH HEH

THANKS, YUKI-CHAN. ♥

I KNOW THAT.

IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S OPENED UP TO ME OR ANY-THING...

BUT IT'S OKAY.

IT'S BETTER THAN BEING COLDLY BRUSHED ASIDE.

YUKI-CHAN IS...

...THE ONLY ONE WHO MOVES LUKA.

WHEN I TAKE HIS HAND, IT'S OKAY.

WITH YUKI-CHAN, IT ISN'T JUST LUKA...

NOW THAT HE'S HERE, SURELY, HE'LL TAKE EVEN THE DISCORD THAT FLOATS UP BETWEEN FRIENDS...

...AND TURN IT INTO A BEAUTIFUL MELODY.

THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

...THEM BOTH.

...ARE YOU INCAPABLE OF WALKING ALONE WITHOUT SOMEONE HOLDING YOUR HAND?

THAT'S RIGHT.

I'LL JUST GET LOST!

THE FRIEND WHO IS DEAR TO ME.

THE PERSON WHO IS IMPORTANT TO ME.

...I LOVE...

OHHH NOOOO!

IF YOU GO ALONG WITH THEM...

...YOU'LL GET EATEN UP! OM NOM NOM!!

I WAS JUST WONDERING WHERE YOU WENT 0

GONNA GO WITH THEM, TSUKUMO?

TSUKUMO-KUN...

...THOSE PEOPLE ARE SAYING THEY WANT TO GET ME A PARFAIT...

MEE MEE MEE

BUT I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO EAT IT—

SIDE STORY - END

◆PRIDE AND JOY◆

I KNOW, RIGHT?

WHOA! THAT SURE IS A LOT!!

LOOK! VAL-ENTINE CHOCO-LATES!!

IT IS!

ARE THESE ALL FOR YOU, HO-TSUMA-KUN!?

YHW?

DON (BAND)

WELL, I HAVE THAT SORT OF PROBLEM MYSELF.

AND THIS IS AFTER HE TURNED DOWN EVERYTHING THEY CAME TO GIVE HIM IN PERSON THAT'S MY PARTNER FOR YOU.

NOPE. FOR SHUUSEI.

♪

Y

SUTEEEEN (WHAAAAA)

WHY, MY TSU-KUMO! AT THE FALL FIELD DAY, RIGHT...?

HIS PHOTO SALES WERE *NUMBER ONE FOR THE WHOLE MIDDLE SCHOOL!!*

THAT'S MY BROTHER ♥ FOR YOU!

WELL, SHUUSEI'S *NUMBER ONE IN SMARTS!!*

FU FU FU!

ALWAYS AT THE TOP OF THE CLASS

WH- WHY'RE THEY... HA HA HA BRAGGING LIKE THAT .....?

MY TSU-KUMO

MY SHUU-SEI

WHY, INDEED?

I WISH THEY WOULD KNOW WHEN TO STOP

OUR BACKSTAGE COMIC STRIPS

FOR SHORT...

BOKU-URA!

◆THE RESIDENTS OF TWILIGHT HALL◆

MEH HEH HEH!

TWILIGHT HALL IS POPULATED WITH A MYSTERIOUS SPECIES, UNFATHOMABLE BY REASON.

INDEED. SOME AREN'T EVEN HUMAN.— (DISTANT EYES)

THERE IS NO WAY THAT I, A SIMPLE COOK, CAN KEEP UP WITH THEM—

OOH, AYA-SAN...

WHAT LOVELY LITTLE BOTTLES.

SO THE SOOTHING OASIS FOR MY HEART IS MY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, AYA-SAN! ♥

HOORAY FOR THE REASONABLE PEOPLE! HOORAY FOR THE NORMAL PEOPLE!

BUT SHE IS QUITE CUTE TOO ♥

WHAT ARE THEY? PERFUMES?

OH!

NO, THAT IS...

KAPO (POP)

BON (POOF)

EEEK!

...FAREWELL, MY OASIS...

WHY EXPLOSIVES

THAT IS MY EXPERIMENTAL LIQUID EXPLOSIVE...

A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

◆THE MYSTERY OF MARI IZUMI ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL◆

H-HEY, TSUKUMO...

POKO

POKO (CRIP)

HOTSUMA...

I..... I...

THE TWO STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?

THE TOUGHEST GUY IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THE SWEETEST GUY IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL? DO THEY HAVE A THING?

OR MAYBE HE'S MAKING HIM CRY.

MISO (WHISPER)

MISO

YOU'RE DEAD, KRAKEN

'KAY?

'KAY?

DON'T CRY, TSUKUMO.

GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!!!

HEY! THIS ISN'T A DAMNED SOAP OPERA!!

EEEEEEEK!

LATER, HOTSUMA MADE THIS.

金魚の墓

SIGN: HERE LIES GOLDFISH / LIVED TWO YEARS

◆MY LITTLE BROTHER◆

WANNA HAVE SOME FUN WITH US?

HEY, BABY, YOU ALL ALONE?

I HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER OF WHOM I'M VEEEEERY PROUD.

HE'S A BOY OF FEW WORDS, BUT HE'S CUTE AND SWEET!

JIRO'S GLARE

HE ALWAYS COMES THROUGH IN CRITICAL SITUATIONS.

HE'S A PRETTY COOL LITTLE BROTHER!

TSU-KUMO

DUDE'S SCARY!

SORRY I'M LATE...

WAAAIT!

THAT'S MY ESCORT!

HE JUST HAS THIS LITTLE HABIT OF GOING OFF WITH STRANGERS.

GET-TING LURED AWAY BY DESSERTS AGAIN

LET'S GET ICE CREAM!

◆A MAN CALLED ISUZU FUJIWARA◆

TODAY WAS OUR FIRST MEETING WITH ISUZU FUJIWARA-SENSEI.

TAKA-SHIRO-SAMA?

WAAAAAAIT!

YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE, SO JUST STRIP ALREADY-YYYYY!!

TAAAKA-SHIRO-OOOO!

.....

AND THEN...

...ISUZU FUJI-WARA!

HELLO, BOYS AND GIRLS!

FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE THE PHYSICIAN FOR YOU ZWEILT...

IT WAS IMMEDIATELY CLEAR THAT HE WAS A DUBIOUS INDIVIDUAL.

NOW, IF I COULD HAVE EVERYONE DISROBE!!

◆EXPRESSING AFFECTION◆

...A GOOD BRUSHING!

HA-HA-HA! NOW THIS LITTLE GUY JUST LOVES.

JIIII (STAAARE)

NICE, SMOOTH CUTICLES!

.....

WHY..?

◆IF HOTSUMA HAD A CELL PHONE◆

YOU DELETE THAT RIGHT NOW!

WHEN DID YOU TAKE THAT?

HMM?

WHAT HAP-PENED?

WHAAAT?

WELL YOU'RE TAKING CANDID PICTURES OF ME.

I MADE SHUUSEI MY PHONE WALL-PAPER...

...AND HE GOT MAD.

YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S A PERFECTLY NATURAL REACTION...? WHAT IF SOME-ONE SAW IT...!?

SARATTO (CAREFREE)

AND MINE IS KUROTO.

MY WALL-PAPER IS TOOKO-CHAN.

IS THAT A BAD THING?

...

ONE OF HIM PLAYING SHOGI! ♥ ISN'T HE LOVELY!?

NO!

THAT IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE, IS IT!?

I'M NOT GOING TO ALLOW HOTSUMA TO HAVE A CELL PHONE...

OH, PLEASE! LIKE I'D REALLY TAKE PICTURES WHEN PEOPLE AIN'T LOOKIN'!!

YOU TWO'LL ARE ALL THE SAME.

...SUCH A DEVELOP-MENT IS ALL TOO EASY TO IMAGINE.

THE END

AFTERWORD MANGA

BEHIND THE SCENES OF URABOKU.

THIS MANGA IS? UMMMM... OHHH... I GUESS SO...

BUT IN MY MIND.....

STORYBOARD

URABOKU IS ALWAYS GETTING CALLED A "SERIOUS STORY," BUT FROM THE CREATOR'S PERSPECTIVE.

HELLO! ♪ I'VE BEEN HEARING FROM PEOPLE WHO WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MY DAILY ROUTINE, SO THIS TIME, IT'S A ROUTINE SPECIAL (?).

MOTTA (BLOOP) モテ モテ MOTTA

TAKA-SHIRO-SAMA!!

(STORE)

OOOOOH, IT MUST BE NICE!

ACK!

SPOIL! RUIN!! SABOTAGE!! RENDER IT ALL MEANING-LESS!!!

IF I WRITE THAT, IT'LL SPOIL EVERY-THING I'VE DONE SO FAR!!

IT'S NO GOOD! NO GOOD AT AAAALL!!

SUCH IDIOTIC SCENARIOS RUN THROUGH MY HEAD EVERY SINGLE DAY...

IF I EXPOSED MY TRAIN OF THOUGHT IN COMICS, IT'D BE PRETTY MEANINGLESS, I THINK

BLUN (FLOP.) BLUN

AS WOMEN, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE SO LUCKY!

AND YOU DON'T EVEN NEED TO TAKE CARE OF IT! I'M SOOO JEALOUS ~!

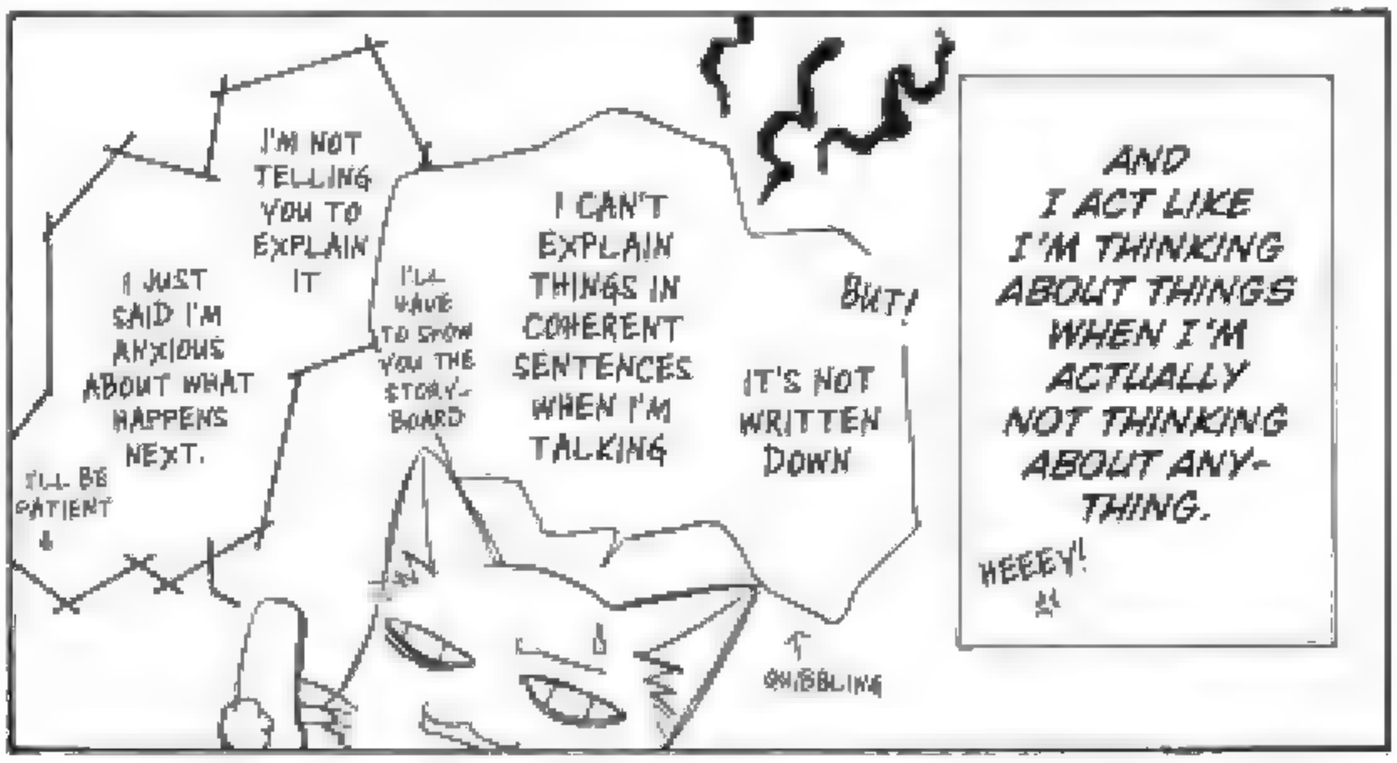
YOU'VE BEEN ALIVE SINCE THE HEIAN PERIOD, AND YOUR HAIR AND SKIN ARE STILL ALL SMOOTH AND PERFECT!!

AMI (BRAID) あみ あみ

HA-HA-HA! ♥ I'M BEAUTIFUL, AREN'T I? SO BEAUTIFUL.

HASHING THINGS OUT
Uh-huh... The rough-est possible explanation again.
THE BLACK RABBIT EDITOR
...THIS MONTH'S CHAPTER WITH LUKA SHOWING UP.
SO I'LL END...
MY EDITOR CERTAINLY DOESN'T KNOW...
EVEN I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHAT IT IS...
URABOKU IS A GIRLS' MANGA, BUT PEOPLE EVEN SAY THAT IT'S LIKE A BOYS' MANGA.

DEAR READERS, ARE YOU ALL ABLE TO SLEEP SOUNDLY AT NIGHT?


I'M NOT TELLING YOU TO EXPLAIN IT
I JUST SAID I'M ANXIOUS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.
I'LL BE PATIENT
I'LL HAVE TO SHOW YOU THE STORY-BOARD
I CAN'T EXPLAIN THINGS IN COHERENT SENTENCES WHEN I'M TALKING
BUT!
IT'S NOT WRITTEN DOWN
GNIBBLING
AND I ACT LIKE I'M THINKING ABOUT THINGS WHEN I'M ACTUALLY NOT THINKING ABOUT ANY-THING.
HEEEY!

IT'S LIKE I SLEEP WITH A SECURITY SYSTEM ON...

DANG. I CAN'T GET CLOSE..!!

SUU SUU (ZZZZ)

MISSION-IFIED

GAH! SHE DID WAKE UP!

YOU WOKE UP FROM THAT!?

BACHI (CRACK)

ばちっ!

YEAAAAH-

MAYBE I'M JUST TOO TENSE.?

WE WANT YOU TO GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.

WERE YOU REALLY ASLEEP? YOU CAN'T REALLY GET ANY REST THAT WAY

HFFF..

UHH... FEEL LIKE I'M GONNA KEEL OVER IN THE LOBBY...

FURA (WOBBLE)

FURA

USUALLY, I CAN'T SLEEP FOR DAYS AT A TIME...

SOME WHERE WITH A BED WOULD BE NICE...

...IT'S MORE LIKE PASSING OUT.

RATHER THAN "FALLING ASLEEP"...

THIS IS THE ONLY TIME I DON'T WAKE UP I'LL SLEEP FOR ABOUT TEN HOURS STRAIGHT

LIKE ONCE A MONTH ON THE DEADLINE DAY.

THERE ARE DAYS, HOWEVER, WHEN I CAN FEEL THAT I "GOT A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP."

THAT'S IT!?

THANKS, I HOPE IT'S OKAAAY.

OKAY, I'LL CALL YOU LATER.

ACTUALLY, FOR THE TITLE OF THE RADIO CD FREEBIE... WE DECIDED TO RUN WITH THAT.

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER THAT EITHER, BUT..

FROM THE START, WHEN I THOUGHT "DOES THIS TITLE EVEN MAKE SENSE?"...

NO, IN ALL HONESTY, IT'S BEEN STRICKEN FROM MY MEMORY.

LIKE, WHAT'S "FANCY CHILDREN" EVEN SUPPOSED TO MEAN

SO THE PROPER TITLE OF URABOKU FC IS...

"WE WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING! BECAUSE WE'RE FANCY CHILDREN! ☆"

↑ SO DUBBED BY THE EDITOR.

YOU REMEMBER IT, RIGHT?

なんていうと!?

YOU DID WHAT!?

EXPLANATION:

THE FREEBIE CD THAT CAME WITH MARCH '09 ASUKA WAS AN AUDIO EDITION OF URABOKU FC— "URABOKU VOICE FC."

THE EMCEES: SOUICHIROU HOSHI-SAN (VOICE OF YUKI)
JUN FUKUYAMA-SAN (VOICE OF TSUKUMO)

AND IT REALLY WAS LOVELY.

↑ WE WERE CALLING IT THE "URABOKU NICE BOYS TEAM-UP ♥CD" OF COURSE, YOU CAN'T GET IT ANYMORE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "AWESOME"?

THIS TITLE IS AWESOME! NOT BAD, NOT BAD AT ALL!

I DID! I BEGGED THEM IN TEARS NOT TO DO IT!

APPARENTLY REALLY WAS IN TEARS.

BUT THEY ALL THOUGHT THAT WAS FUNNY, AND THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME AT ALL!!

WE WENT AND MADE A RADIO CD!

COULDN'T YOU GIVE IT A COOLER TITLE!?

WHY DIDN'T YOU USE EVERY-THING IN YOUR POWER TO STOP IT!!!

↑ THEN OF COURSE I DID FEEL BAD

AND THEY'RE BOTH PROS, SO THEY EVEN PUT ALL THEIR ENERGY INTO THE TITLE CALL

WE WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING! BECAUSE WE'RE FANCY CHILDREN! ☆

GET AHOLD OF YOUR-SELF!

ガバァ

...BUT IN THE END, IT SO HAPPENED THAT DURING THE RECORD-ING...

...THEY KEPT REPEATING THE TITLE, FOUR OR FIVE TIMES, SWITCHING UP THE TONE BETWEEN UPBEAT AND SERIOUS...

WELL, I GUESS THE TITLE IS JUST SOME-THING THAT GETS READ ONCE IN THE BEGINNING .....

RIGHT, RIGHT.

BLOOD WRITING: VOICE FC

SINCE I'VE TRIED TO GET USED TO IT, I GUESS IT'S A GOOD TITLE. IT HAS SOME IMPACT... I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT OF IT MYSELF.

...SO I GUESS MAYBE IT WASN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT.

..... BUT NONE OF THE READERS REALLY GAVE ME A HARD TIME ABOUT IT...

ALTHOUGH I RECEIVED SOME LOVELY LETTERS ABOUT WHAT AN IMPRESSION IT MADE! ✿

S-SERI-OUSLY !!?

YEAH.

OH, LET'S MAKE "OUR" AND "BACK" IN KATAKANA...

SO IT'S BOKU-URA FOR SHORT.

YEAH, I GUESS IT'S OKAY. "OUR BACKSTAGE COMIC STRIPS" LET'S GO WITH IT. ...

...H-how is it?

WE THOUGHT OF A LOT, BUT THAT WAS THE BEST...

EDITOR B, WHO DOES THAT SORT OF THING...

...CAME UP WITH THE TITLE FOR THE FOUR-PANEL STRIPS TOO.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED HERE.

OUR BACKSTAGE COMIC STRIPS FOR SHORT... BOKU-URA!

BY THE WAY, FOR THE "OFFSHOT CARD" THIS TIME...

...I DID HOTSUMA, SINCE A LOT OF READERS REQUESTED HIM.

※ THE CARDS ONLY COME WITH THE FIRST PRINT RUN. THIS IS THE FOURTH ONE.

FROM NOW ON WHEN PEOPLE HEAR "BOKU-URA"...

...THEY'LL THINK OF FOUR-PANEL STRIPS! ♪

I LIKE IT.

THANKS B-SAN.

EDITOR B, AFRAID OF HIS OWN IDEAS.

It's okay? For real!? Are you sure it's okay!?

HE DOES COME UP WITH THINGS THAT I WOULDN'T THINK OF.

...I THINK IT'S FINE.

IT'S YOUR OWN DAMN FAULT!!

THE POOR THING ...

HE'S PLAGUED BY A REPUTA-TION LIKE THAT?

NO MATTER WHO I ASKED, THE REPLY WAS BASICALLY SOME FORM OF "NAKED"...

...THOUGH IT TOTALLY DIDN'T JIVE WITH MY AESTHETIC SENSE.

HOW SHOULD I DRAW HOTSUMA IN IT?

THAT SCENARIO, INCIDENTALLY, WAS REQUESTED BY MY EDITOR AND SEVERAL OTHERS.

SHIRT-LESS.

NO HESITATION

DECIDED AFTER MUCH BICKERING

I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT TOO!

I THINK THEY'LL BE ANNOUNCING IMPORTANT THINGS LIKE THE CAST IN ASUKA MAGAZINE, SO IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, PLEASE CHECK IT OUT! ♥

I TENACIOUSLY REMEMBER THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE WHO REGULARLY WRITE TO ME... ✿

I'M USING IT TO HOLD LITTLE SUNDRIES! ✧

IT'S A HANDMADE ODAGI-CAT POUCH! ♥

A READER GAVE ME THIS.

OH! AND THE PLANNING FOR THE ANIME IS MAKING PROGRESS!!

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU DILIGENT READERS!

IN THE NEXT VOLUME—THE CLIMAX OF THE KAMAKURA ARC!

Translation Notes

Page 15
In Japan, when the suspect of a crime is a minor, it is typical to elide his or her name in the media and in legal proceedings. While standard, this naming convention also evokes an infamous case in which a disturbed fourteen-year-old boy of Kobe gruesomely murdered two younger students in 1997.

Page 16
A *shiki*, short for *shikigami*, is to an *onmyouji* (see page 103 note) what a familiar is to a Western witch. A spirit that could be summoned by writing on paper seals, shiki were used to do the bidding of the summoner. Here, Senshirou uses them to keep an eye on Meika-chan.

"Megyllvarda" is written with the characters for "Chaos."

Page 102
The Heian Period (794-1185) was a time when Kyoto was the capital of Japan and court culture flourished with literature and intrigue while the rest of the land was quite rural. "Heian" literally means "serene," so Takashiro is making an ironic play on words by mentioning the name of the historical period, since his tale is anything but.

Page 103
An *onmyouji* is a diviner and magician in the tradition of Yin-Yang cosmology. A priest here would have been a Buddhist priest; they often were called upon to perform exorcisms. The most renowned real-life onmyouji of all was Abe no Seimei, who was active during the Heian Period.

This phrase, "Hand of Admonition," is the meaning with which "Zweilt" is written, but here it is used with its original meaning.

Page 152
The pawn toss, or *furigoma*, is the way to decide who plays white and who plays black in shogi. The designated person picks up five pawns and throws them like dice; if more pawns land with the promoted side up, that person plays black. (Unlike chess, black moves first.)

Page 153
Translated here as "then if you please," *onegaishimasu* is used in the original as a ritual phrase uttered at the start of a shogi match, requesting the other player's goodwill and respecting their skill, much like the bow before a karate match.

Page 165
A *shinigami* is a "god of death."

Page 169
Kusa-dango are a kind of sweet Japanese dumpling made with mugwort.

Page 177
Kuroto's name is written with the characters for "black sword."

Page 178
Most cell phone plans in Japan come with an e-mail address for the phone; instead of SMS, texting is usually done via e-mail protocol. This is why Hotsuma says "address" rather than "number."

Page 214
The words spoken by Meika-chan from her grimoire are occult power words. *Kirikaku* is part of an incantation praying to Inari, a Shinto spirit identified with rice, foxes, success, and fertility. *Nin'ou* is associated with Dakini, another mythological figure identified with foxes, as well as with black magic.

Page 223
Shoureikai is short for Shinshin Kishi Shoureikai, the apprentice organizatioun for future professional shogi players. It is what the Minor Leagues are to Major League Baseball.

Page 336
In Japanese, "Our Backstage Comic Strips" is "Bokura no butai-ura yonkoma," so that the abbreviation, Boku-Ura, is a pun reversing the nickname of the Japanese title of this manga, *Uraboku*.

Page 343
In the original Japanese, the title of the Fan Corner section was "Ura made shiritai! Datte boku-tachi Fancy Children dakara!" It's a pun on the characters that make up the nickname of this manga, *Uraboku*, and the initials "FC" for "Fan Corner."

Thank you for reading another chapter of UraBoku!

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Scanner: Sammehmac.tumblr.com
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CONSIDER PURCHASING THE VOLUMES
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